



# Department of Public Health and Human Services

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Steve Bullock, Governor

Richard H. Opper, Director

November 15, 2015

Jennifer Ryan  
Acting Director  
Children and Adults Health Programs Group  
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Blvd, Mailstop: S2-01-16  
Woodlawn, MD 21244

Subject: Request for Amendment  
Section 1115 Montana Basic Medicaid Waiver

Dear Ms. Ryan:

Montana formally requests CMS approval of an Amendment to our Section 1115 Montana Basic Medicaid Waiver. This Waiver Amendment is a companion to the recently approved Montana Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) Program 1115 Waiver and the Alternative Benefit Plans, eligibility, copayment and service state plan amendments that we are submitting to effectuate Medicaid Expansion. Two of the populations currently served under the Basic Waiver are covered elsewhere and no longer require coverage under this Basic Waiver vehicle. We are asking for this Amendment to the Basic Waiver to be approved by January 1, 2016, to coincide with the rest of Medicaid Expansion in Montana.

The proposed amendment, effective January 1, 2016, requests to:

- Remove able-bodied adults from the waiver;
- Remove individuals under age 65 with Severe Disabling Mental Illness who are not covered by or eligible for Medicare and who are between 0-138% of the modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) income level;
- Cover individuals age 18 or older, with Severe Disabling Mental Illnesses (SDMI) who qualify for or are enrolled in the state-financed Mental Health Services Plan (MHSP) or the Basic Medicaid waiver, but are otherwise ineligible for Medicaid benefits and either:
  - Have income 0-138% of the federal poverty level (FPL) and are eligible for or enrolled in Medicare; or
  - Have income 139-150% of the FPL regardless of Medicare status (they can be covered or not covered by Medicare and be eligible);
- Reduce the MHSP Waiver enrollment cap from 6,000 to 3,000;
- Align the Basic Medicaid benefit package with the Standard Medicaid benefit package. Basic Medicaid previously did not cover or had very limited coverage of audiology, dental and denturist, durable medical equipment (DME), eyeglasses, optometry and ophthalmology for routine eye exams, personal care services, and hearing aids; and
- Adopt a 12-month continuous eligibility period for all non-expansion Medicaid-covered individuals whose eligibility is based on modified adjusted gross income (MAGI).

This Demonstration Waiver Amendment will further the objectives of the Medicaid program by continuing Medicaid coverage to a vulnerable population, adults with Severe Disabling Mental Illness. By aligning the Basic Medicaid benefit with Standard Medicaid, Montanans with Severe Disabling Mental Illness served under this waiver will gain access to significant health care benefits. Adoption of continuous eligibility will ensure better access to care and continuity of services for members and increase administrative efficiency of the Montana Medicaid Program. The amendment will also update the waiver budget neutrality and general waiver language.

Please contact me at [mdalton@mt.gov](mailto:mdalton@mt.gov) or (406)444-4084 or Rebecca Corbett, HELP Program Officer, at (406) 444-6869 or [rcorbett@mt.gov](mailto:rcorbett@mt.gov) with questions. We look forward to your approval of the Basic Medicaid Waiver Amendment.

Sincerely,



Mary E. Dalton  
Montana State Medicaid Director

cc: Richard H. Oppen, DPHHS Director  
Mary Eve Kulawik, DPHHS Medicaid Analyst  
Andrea Casart, CMS  
Terri Frazer, CMS  
Cindy Smith, CMS  
Rebecca Corbett, DPHHS HELP Program Officer

Enclosures: 1115 Basic Medicaid Application (redline/final/508 compliant), Budget Neutrality, Tribal Consultation, Public Notice, and Montana Health Coalition Memo